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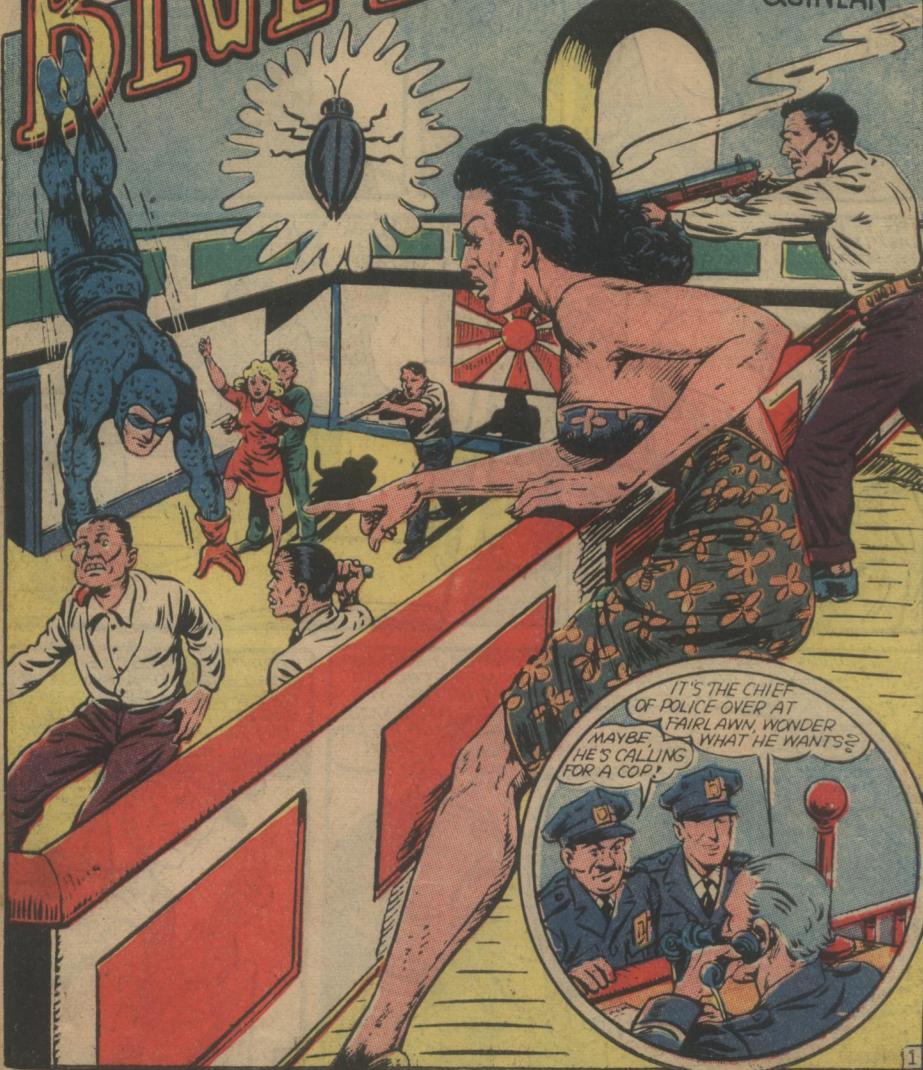
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# The BLUE BEETLE

ILLUSTRATED BY  
CHAS. M.  
QUINLAN



WELL, LISTEN, SARGE, YOU REMEMBER  
ROD RUTTER, YOU FELLOWS WANTED HIM  
BAD--WE PICKED HIM UP YESTERDAY--  
SEND OUT A COUPLE OF YOUR BOYS TO  
GET HIM, WILL YA--  
I'LL WAIT FOR 'EM,  
O.K.!



ROD RUTTER, WELL I'LL BE--GOOD WORK  
CHIEF, SURE, TWO MEN ARE LEAVIN' RIGHT  
NOW TO TAKE HIM OFF YOUR HANDS--BYE,  
AND THANKS!



WELL, YU WERE LISTENIN'--YOU KNOW  
WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT--GRAB A FERRY  
AND HOP OVER TO FAIRLAWN--HERE'S  
YOUR EXTRADITION PAPERS--GIT  
GOIN'!

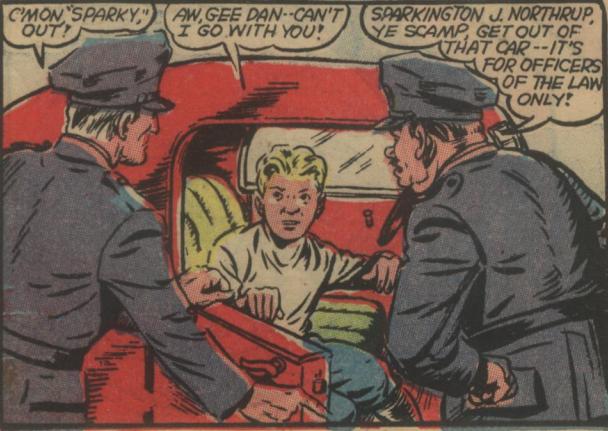
THANKS FOR THE  
VACATION,  
SARGE!



C'MON 'SPARKY,'

AW, GEE DAN--CAN'T  
I GO WITH YOU!

SPARKINGTON J. NORTHRUP,  
YE SCAMP, GET OUT OF  
(THAT CAR--IT'S  
FOR OFFICERS  
OF THE LAW  
ONLY!



SORRY, "SPARKY," BUT WE'VE  
GOT TO EXTRADITE A DANSEROUS  
CRIMINAL FROM THE NEIGHBOR-  
ING STATE--SO, I'M SORRY,  
BUT NOTHING DOING: C'MON,  
SCRAM!







STORY, EH. CATCH THAT CAR AND  
YOU'LL GET THE BIGGEST STORY  
OF YOUR LIFE!

SAY? WHAT  
HAPPENED?



A JAP WOMAN AND HER GANG RUN US OFF THE  
ROAD AND TOOK ROD RUTTER -HE CALLED HER  
MADAME FANG?

MADAME FANG! WHY THE  
F.B.I. HAS SENT OUT A  
GENERAL ALARM FOR  
HER ARREST!

HEY THERE  
THEY ARE--  
JUST GOIN'  
OVER THAT  
HILL!



HEY!

STEP  
ON IT!

WAIT, WAIT,  
COME BACK!

KEEP GOIN' JOAN,  
WE CAN'T AFFORD  
TO LET THAT CAR  
GET AWAY!



THEY'VE TURNED OFF--  
THEY'RE HEADING FOR  
THAT BIG HOUSE ON THE  
HILL--STOP NEAR THOSE  
TREES!

THAT'S THE OLD GREEN  
BRIER COUNTRY CLUB--  
IT'S BEEN CLOSED FOR  
MONTHS!



PARK HERE  
AND KEEP OUT OF  
SIGHT--WE'LL GO UP AND  
TAKE A LOOK AROUND!

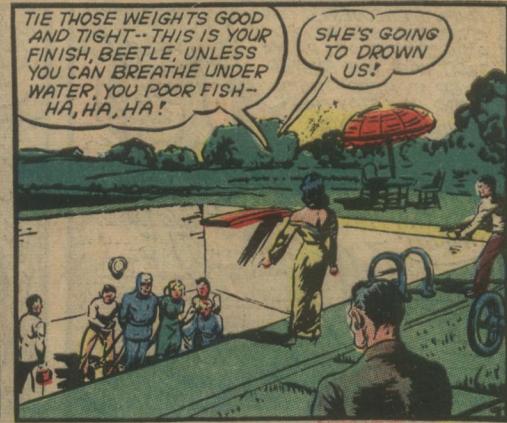
ALLRIGHT, BUT  
DON'T FORGET TO  
COME BACK OR  
I'LL BE LONESOME!

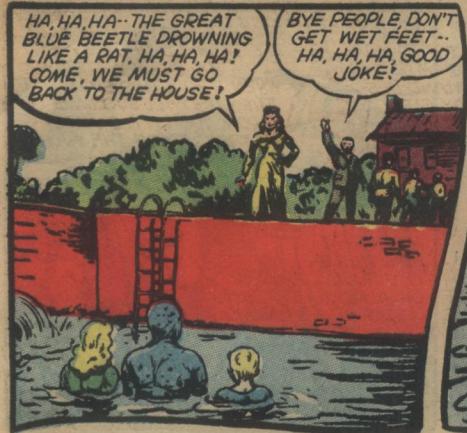












MADAM! MADAM FANG,  
SUKI HAS RETURNED!

WELL SUKI,  
WERE YOU  
SUCCESSFUL?

MUCH SO MADAM  
FANG, DYNAMITE  
ALL SET TO MAKE  
BIG DAMAGE TO  
DAM AND DES-  
TROY CITY  
WATER  
SUPPLY!

GOOD EVERYTHING HAS WORKED  
PERFECTLY SO FAR THE BLUE  
BEETLE IS OUT OF THE WAY  
FROM TOO MUCH WATER, AND  
WHEN I PULL THIS SWITCH,  
THE CITY WILL SUCUMB  
FROM TOO LITTLE WATER--  
STRANGE ARE THE WAYS  
OF FATE!



SAY! WHO IS THIS COMING DOWN THE ROAD? WHY, WE  
ALMOST HAD FORGOTTEN HIM-- WELL, WHAT DO YOU  
KNOW! IT'S MIKE MANNIGAN HIMSELF--!

A SAD DAY IT IS WHIN  
ME OWN PARTNER  
WOULD RUN OFF AND  
LEAVE ME DYIN' IN  
THE ROAD! OW, ME  
FEET ARE KILLIN'  
ME!



AH, THERE'S A HOUSE UP  
THERE ON THAT HILL--  
MAYBE THEY WOULD GIVE  
ME A GLASS OF WATER  
AND LET ME SOAK  
ME FEET A BIT!



STRANGE ISN'T IT, THAT A LITTLE  
SWITCH AND MY HAND CONTROL  
THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE  
MOTO, HAVE THE CARS READY FOR  
THE GET-AWAY-THE MOMENT I  
THROW THIS SWITCH, THE WHOLE  
COUNTY WILL BE IN AN UPROAR!

YES,  
MADAM  
FANG!

A  
FEW  
MINUTES  
LATER!

EVERYTHING'S  
READY, MADAM  
FANG!

HERE IT GOES--  
GOOD-BYE WATER  
SUPPLY-- HEY,  
WHO'S THAT?



MADAM FANG, 'TIS POLICE-MAN--ONE OF WHOM WAS IN CAR FROM WHICH WE TOOK ROD RUTTER!

WAIT, I WILL SEE WHAT HE WANTS MYSELF, THE REST OF YOU GET OUT THE BACK WAY. HURRY!

OH, EXCUSE ME, MUM, COULD YOU BE AFTER GIVIN' ME A BIT OF WATER, IT'S DYIN' OF THIRST, I AM!

INDEED, YOU POOR MAN, COME IN--MOTO, QUICKLY, A GLASS OF WATER FOR THE OFFICER, WON'T YOU SIT DOWN?



AHHH--OH, THANK YOU, MAM--BE JABBERS, OI'M SO TIRED I COULD SIT HERE FOREVER!

YOU DON'T SAY, WELL I'M GLAD OF THAT!

YOU SEE, I HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT, AND I MUST LEAVE AT ONCE, SO WOULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR?



CERTAINLY, MUM, I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR THAT GLASS OF WATER THAT I'D DO MOST ANY-THING FOR YOU!

WELL THIS SWITCH CONTROLS THE LIGHTS AND SO FORTH AROUND THE PLACE--YOU CAN REST HERE FOR TWENTY MINUTES, BUT WHEN YOU GO, DON'T FORGET TO PUSH IT DOWN!

SURE, MUM, SURE--THAT I WILL--I'LL PUSH IT DOWN WHIN' I GO OUT!

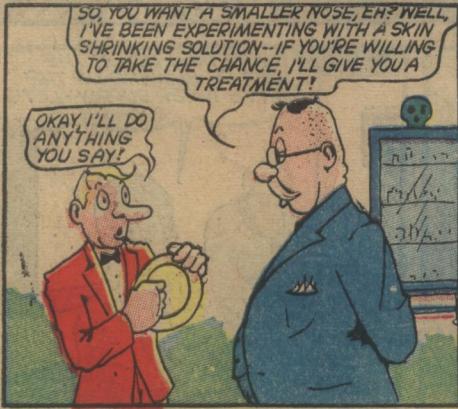
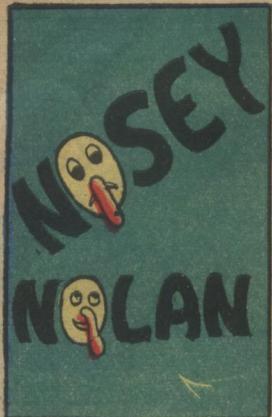
THANK YOU, NOW I CAN KEEP MY APPOINTMENT--GOOD-BYE--DON'T FORGET THE SWITCH!

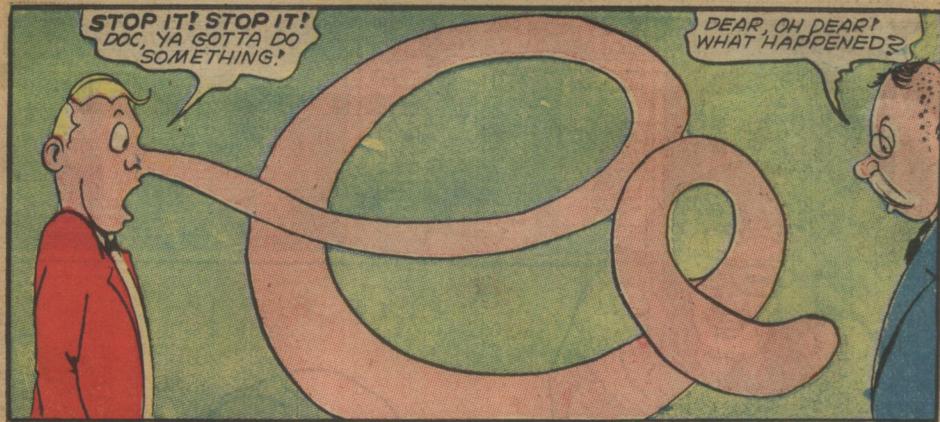












# THE BLUE BEETLE



THE MID-AFTERNOON STILLNESS  
IS BROKEN BY THE EERIE WHAIL  
OF A SCREAMING SIREN...



IT'S THE PRISON  
SIREN MIKE... SOUNDS  
LIKE A BREAK!



ON THEIR BEAT, PATROLMAN DAN GARRET  
AND MIKE MANNIGAN ARE QUICK TO  
RECOGNIZE THE WARNING SIGNAL!

we 'Screen-Tested,'  
Army Starts #2

The N.Y.  
of Dover round out yesterday's  
morning to give 103  
and 104 respectively.  
breakfast before the  
ment down to the New  
John Ross, 20, of Boston,  
as many a year. I  
of you will be re-

goods for remo-

Hawaii, Alaska,

in Quebec, Que.,

and other

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case was pre-

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wanted

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groups of boys for a

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protection

cases

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lately in

State

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and



HALT! --  
OR I'LL --!



ENGLAND AT A PORT OF EMBARKATION. ANOTHER DRAMA IS IN THE MAKING-- ONE THAT WILL CLOSELY KNIT THE LIVES OF THE BLUE BEETLE AND AN ENGLISH LAD!

I'M SURE MY SON, SPARKINGTON, WILL BE MOST COMFORTABLE ABOARD YOUR SHIP, CAPTAIN!

THANK YOU, LORD NORTHRUP. WELL DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO SEE HIM SAFELY TO AMERICA!

STOP! PICTURES ARE PROHIBITED-- HERE,--

A PICTURE OF THE LAD WON'T HURT ANYONE!

HAND OVER THAT CAMERA, YOU!

IF IT AIN'T ALLOWED, I'LL JUST TOSSED IT AWAY!

SORRY, SPARKINGTON, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO HELP! HOP OVER AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THAT CAMERA!

HIS HEAD'S TURNED! THAT GIVES ME A CHANCE TO BEAT IT!

HALT-- HALT! CONFOUND IT-- THE DEVIL'S LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING!

I'M SORRY, SIR-- I'VE SEARCHED ALL OVER, SEEMS LIKE THE CAMERA HAS VANISHED INTO THIN AIR!

AND SO HAS THE BLISTER. I'LL NOTIFY NAVAL INTELLIGENCE AND WE'LL SET SAIL IMMEDIATELY!

AS THE SHIP SLIPS OUT TO JOIN A CONVOY AT SEA, THE INCIDENT IS REVIEWED IN THE OFFICE OF BRITISH NAVAL INTELLIGENCE:

AND THE CAMERA WAS UNDOUBTEDLY PICKED UP BY A CONFEDERATE-- IT'S CLEAR, ALL THEY WANTED WAS THE LAD'S PICTURE.

LORD NORTHRUP IS A POWERFUL MAN HERE! THE AXIS AGENTS WILL FORWARD THE PHOTO TO THEIR MEN IN AMERICA, AND--

YOU THINK THEY MAY USE SPARKINGTON AS A MEANS TO FORCE LORD NORTHRUP INTO SOMETHING UNSCRUPULOUS?

THE AXIS DOGS WILL TRY ANYTHING-- I'LL NOTIFY AMERICA TO KEEP THE STRICTEST WATCH ON YOUNG SPARKINGTON!

DAYS LATER IN AMERICA--PATROLMEN DAN GARRET AND MIKE MANNIGAN ARE ASSIGNED TO SPECIAL DUTY--!

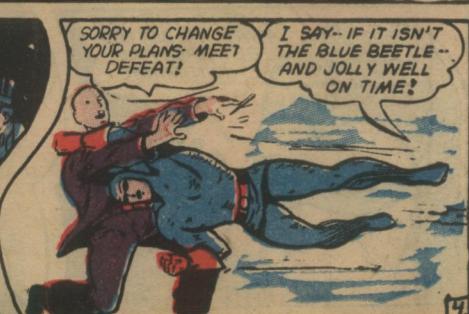
-A CONVOY'S ARRIVING SECRETLY IN HALF AN HOUR AND THE BOY IS COMING HERE FOR THE DURATION! WE'VE BEEN WARNED, ENEMY AGENTS MAY TRY TO KIDNAP HIM!

STUDY THIS PICTURE OF THE KID, AND HOP OVER TO THE DOCK--KEEP A CLOSE WATCH AND TAKE HIM TO THE CARTWRIGHT'S--HE'S GOING TO STAY THERE!

WITH US ON THE JOB, HE'S AS GOOD AS THERE!



IN A SPLIT SECOND, DAN ADOPTS THE ROLE OF THE MIGHTY CRUSADER--!





THE FOLLOWING DAY, SPARKINGTON'S APPEARANCE IS THE OBJECT OF MUCH DISCUSSION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

HEY, FELLA'S, GET A LOAD OF THE SUIT ON THAT ENGLISH KID!

LOOKS TOO CLEAN, DON'T HE? C'MON, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN WITH HIM!

SCRAM, YOU MUGS, I'M THE TOUGHEST GUY HERE, SO I'LL HAVE THE FUN! WATCH ME!

HEY, FANCY PANTS, I DON'T LIKE YOU OR ANYTHING ABOUT YOU!

SORRY OLD BOY, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT!

WELL I CAN-- HAVE A SEAT, MUG!

I DARE SAY YOU'RE QUITE AN UNRULY BOUNDER, BUT I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE YOU!

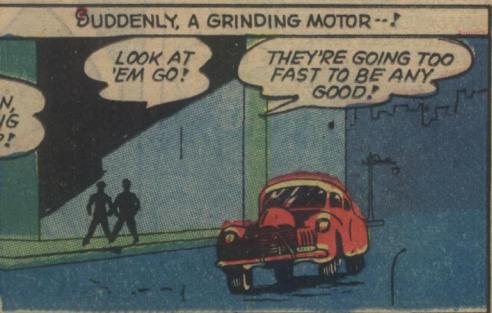
YOU LEAVE ME NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO HAND YOU A SOUND THRASHING!

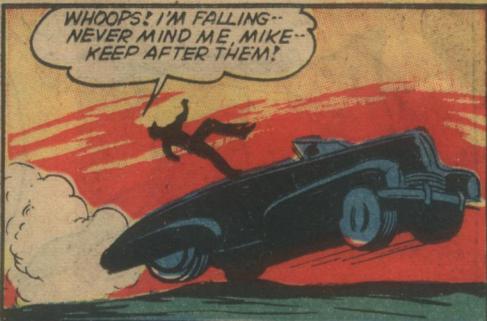
CLOSE BY, DAN AND MIKE ARE WATCHING--!

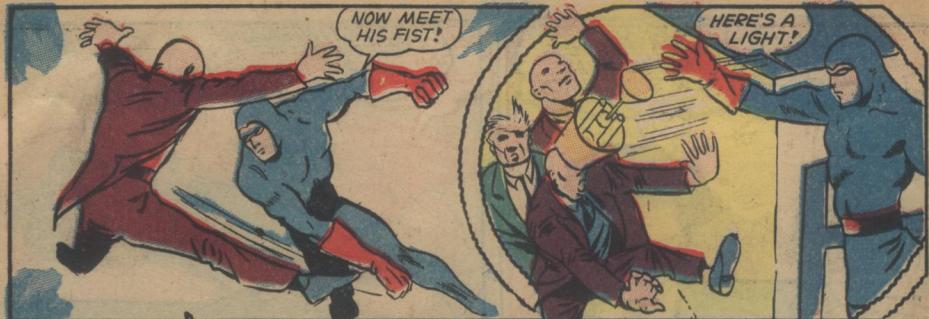
SPARKINGTON'S HEADING FOR TROUBLE--WE'D BETTER STOP THEM!

HOLD ON, MIKE--WON'T HURT TO HAVE THE KID LEARN HOW TO PROTECT HIMSELF!

THIS IS WHAT I MEAN!









BUT AT THIS POINT, MIKE MANNIGAN RETURNS--HIS QUICK MIND MAKES ANOTHER DEDUCTION . . .?



PUT 'EM UP AND  
KEEP 'EM UP!

CONFOUND  
IT! MANNIGAN  
WOULD MAKE A PEST  
OF HIMSELF!



THE BEETLE'S TRAINED EYE IS QUICK TO SIGHT  
THE IMPENDING DANGER!



FROM HIS HIDING PLACE, SPARKY SEES HIS PARTNER IN THE HANDS OF THE KILLERS!



JUST TO SHOW YOU I WASN'T HOLDING THIS THING FOR AN ORNAMENT!



BLAST ME IF THAT ISN'T JOLLY GOOD PUNCHING!

BUT NOT AS EFFECTIVE AS A WELL AIMED BLADE!

SPARKY--LOOKOUT, THE KNIFE!



WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, SPARKY SHIFTS TO ONE SIDE--THE DEADLY BLADE WHIZZES BY AND TEARS INTO THE BLUE BEETLE'S BONDS!



AS THE ROOM RESOUNDS WITH THE THUD OF FALLING BODIES, HAUTMAN SLIPS OUT, LITTLE KNOWING THE OBJECT OF HIS SEARCH IS IN THAT VERY ROOM!



MEANWHILE,  
PATROLMAN  
MANNIGAN  
HAS FULLY  
RECOVERED  
FROM THE  
SHOCK OF  
SEEING  
"TWO  
BLUE  
BEETLES"

GLORY BE, I'VE FORGOTTEN  
ABOUT SPARKINGTON --  
I'D BETTER HOP IN  
AND SEE IF  
HE'S OKAY!



SPARKINGTON!  
SPARKINGTON!  
HE'S --



THAT MUST BE  
HIM IN THERE!



DUMKOPF? WHERE  
IS THE ENGLISH  
BOY, SPEAK?

I DON'T KNOW, AND IF  
I DID, I WOULDN'T BE  
TELLING YOU!



SPARKINGTON, YOU SURE  
HAD ME--ULP--IT'S  
HAUTMAN!

SIT DOWN AND DON'T  
MORE--YOU'RE GOING TO  
ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS!



THEN YOU'RE OF  
NO USE TO ME--  
SO YOU DIE!



HAUTMAN'S FINGERS GROW TENSE AS HIS  
FIRM GRIP TIGHTENS ON THE TRIGGER!

BESORRA, THIS IS ONE  
TIME I'D THANK THE  
BLUE BEETLE TO  
RESCUE ME!



WHAT'S  
THAT?

IT'S THE BLUE  
BEETLE, AND YOU  
CAN START THANK-  
ING ME RIGHT NOW,  
MANNIGAN!







THE

# FOUR SPIES

A three-quarter moon rode the sky as the turbulent waters of the Atlantic tumbled upon the shore in great undulating waves. Out of the night a large rowboat containing five men moved toward the beach. Four of the men were dressed in civilian clothes and the other wore a blue, crew-neck sweater and seaman's cap. Piled high in the rear of the boat was an assortment of boxes.

As the boat pulled into shore, the four civilians picked up the boxes and leaped onto the beach. Then the seaman put out to sea, alone. On the other side of the dunes that stretched along the beach, the men buried the boxes in the sand and, this done, waded silently into the night.

But they had not gone unseen, for a familiar figure, dressed in blue, rose from the dunes and started after the departing figures.

"Spies!" murmured the Blue Beetle.

Two hours later the four men mounted the steps of a dilapidated house in a lonely section of the city. One of them, a burly fellow, knocked three times and a moment later the door opened. Immediately after they entered the house, the Blue Beetle sprang from the shadows and darted across the street. Then he leaped onto the fire-escape on the side of the building and climbed to an upper floor where a dim light shone through a crack in the window shade.

In the meantime the four men had entered an apartment and were welcomed enthusiastically by a tall, bald-headed man with a florid face and bulbous nose. He grinned broadly as he directed his guests to make themselves comfortable.

"Good evening, gentlemen," he began. "I am happy to see that you have completed your journey successfully. Did you bring the plan of operations from Germany?"

"Yes, Herr Moltke," replied one of the men. "I have a list of instructions in my pocket."

"I am glad to know that you speak perfect English," smiled Moltke. The F.B.I. has been very busy lately and naturally they are very suspicious of all foreign accents. Let me have the list."

The spies grouped around a table in the center of the room and pored over every detail of their plans. From time to time Moltke would turn away and point to a large map hanging on the wall behind him. Finally, Moltke folded the papers and placed them in the drawer of the table.

"Excellent," he beamed. "It appears to be a fool-proof plan. You men had better rest tonight and we will start operations tomorrow. Remember the instructions; Bermann and Heinig will blow up the Broton Dam; Wolf and Nerlinger will destroy the railroad junction at Harpersburg."

"Ho-ho!" laughed Heinig. "That will be a wonderful start. After that we will blaze a trail of terror and destruction across the entire United States. Heil Hitler!"

"Heil America!" The Blue Beetle's voice boomed through the room as he leaped through the window.

"Ach! Vass is!" The Nazis reverted to their native tongue as they shrunk back in terror at the sudden appearance of America's ace crime-fighter.

"Hiya, Moltke!" grinned the Blue Beetle as he bounded across the room, his keen eyes taking in every detail of his opponents' movements. "I've been checking on you for months, and now—I've got you and the nucleus of your vicious spy ring!"

"Not yet you haven't!" snarled Moltke as he

reached for his gun.

But the Blue Beetle was an old hand at gunplay and, before the burly German could draw, the fearless spy-smasher laid him low with a shattering uppercut.

Instantly the others were upon him and he went down under the impact of the attack. As he struggled valiantly against three of the spies, Nerlinger picked up a table lamp and sent it crashing down on the Blue Beetle's head.

By this time, Moltke had recovered consciousness and now he rose from the floor snarling with rage.

"The swine!" he exploded. "If he had succeeded in obtaining those papers, every one of us would have been shot and der Fuehrer's plan of world conquest would have been seriously hampered!"

"We will have to get rid of him!" said Heinig grimly.

"Leave that to me," hissed Moltke as he reached into a closet and withdrew a coil of rope. Then the spy leader crouched beside the Blue Beetle and bound his arms and legs.

"Pick him up and follow me," he commanded as he started out the door.

The town clock struck midnight as officer Mike Mannigan patrolled his beat along the waterfront.

"Bejabbers," he lamented, "I haven't had a bit of excitement in two days: no robberies, no killin's—no nothin'! It's home in bed I ought to be!"

But Mannigan would have excitement before the night was over. He gasped with surprise as he saw five men walking toward the end of the dock.

"Now I don't like the looks of this at all," he murmured. "Holy smokes! They're carrying a man—and they're goin' to throw him off the dock!"

Mike set his jaw grimly and ran toward the spot as fast as his short legs could carry him.

"Hold on, ye skunks! I've caught ye in the act—yer under arrest!"

The spies, who were about to throw the Blue Beetle into the river, turned in astonishment and dropped the crime-fighter.

"A cop!" rasped Moltke. "Let 'im have it!" Heinig drew his automatic and fired. But his aim was poor and the bullet whistled harmlessly over the officer's head.

"Oho, so ye want to kill me, eh!" ranted Mannigan. "Well, I'll show ye!" And with that Mike grasped his night-stick and heaved with all his strength.

A howl of pain awoke the echoes of the waterfront, for the club flew straight and true. It clunked Heinig on the back of the skull and the spy fell directly on top of the Blue Beetle, jarring the latter into consciousness. He opened his eyes and, above him, he could hear the sounds of battle as Mannigan hurtled into the fray.

The Blue Beetle rolled over and as he did so he felt a piece of ragged wire cable beneath him. Rubbing his wrists against the rough cable, he soon broke his bonds and then untied his feet.

"Here I come, Mike!" he shouted as he landed a crushing wallop on Wolf's jaw.

"The Blue Beetle!" shouted Mannigan. "I'll take care of you later!" Mike brought up his fist and rocked Nerlinger's head with a solid blow.

"No—No! Don't hit me!" cried the cowardly Moltke as he backed away in fear.

"You've got this coming to you!" snapped the Blue Beetle and sent his fist crashing against Moltke's jaw. The spy leader emitted a low groan and sank to the ground.

"Well, it looks like everything is in hand," laughed the Blue Beetle. "You'll find the sabotage plans these fellows brought over with them at 44 Elm Street. Goodnight, Mike!"

With these parting words, the ace nemesis of crime darted away from the scene.

"Come back, ye blue devil," shouted Mike. "Durn it, he's gone. Bedad, I'd give a year's pay to find out who that lad is!"

# V MAN



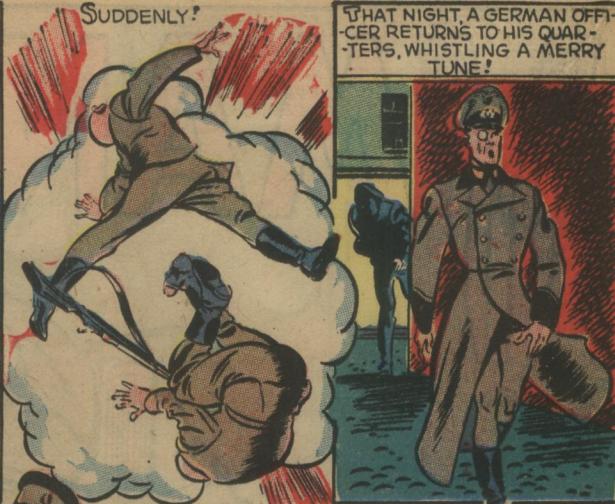
ON THE ROOF OF A NEAR-BY  
BUILDING, THREE MEN WAIT  
WITH HAND GRENADES -- THE  
UNDERGROUND!

AHA-THEES WILL  
GIVE ME A  
PLEASURE!

PATIENCE,  
WAIT TILL I  
GIVE THE  
SIGNAL!

SUDDENLY!

THAT NIGHT, A GERMAN OFFI-  
CER RETURNS TO HIS QUAR-  
TERS, WHISTLING A MERRY  
TUNE!



THREE UFF DER MEN RE-S-  
PONSIBLE LIVE IN A TOWN  
CALLED STE. GABRIEL--UFF  
COURSE, VE COULDNT EXPECT  
TO FIND THEM THERE NOW,  
BUT IF SOMETHING VERE  
TO HAPPEN TO  
-AH--THEIR  
FAMILIES--

TAKE A REGIMENT  
UFF SOLDIERS UND  
MARCH TO STE.  
GABRIEL -- KILL  
EVERYBODY IN  
DER TOWN!

HELLO-V-MAN?--LISTEN--  
I MUST TALK QUICKLY--  
SOMEONE MAY  
HEAR--



THEY'RE GOING TO WIPE OUT  
A WHOLE TOWN? WHY THE  
DIRTY--OKAY, I'LL GET TO  
WORK ON IT RIGHT AWAY--  
GOOD WORK, FRANY--  
AU REVOIR!

THREE HOURS LATER -- A NAZI REGIMENT  
APPROACHES THE VILLAGE OF STE. GABRIEL?



SURROUND DER  
VILLAGE UND TAKE  
EVERYONE PRISONER!

SLOWLY, STEALTHILY THE NAZI SOLDIERS CONVERGE ON THE VILLAGE!



DER OCCUPANTS MUST HAVE FLED TO DER HILLS-- FOOLS, THEY CANNOT GET AWAY-- VE WILL FOLLOW UND FIND THEM EVENTUALLY!



THE VILLAGE IS DESERTED, BUT ON A NEAR-BY HILL, V-MAN AND HIS COMPANIONS PREPARE TO SET OFF A HIDDEN CHARGE OF DYNAMITE?

AH, THEY ARE RIGHT IN THE CENTER OF THE VILLAGE!

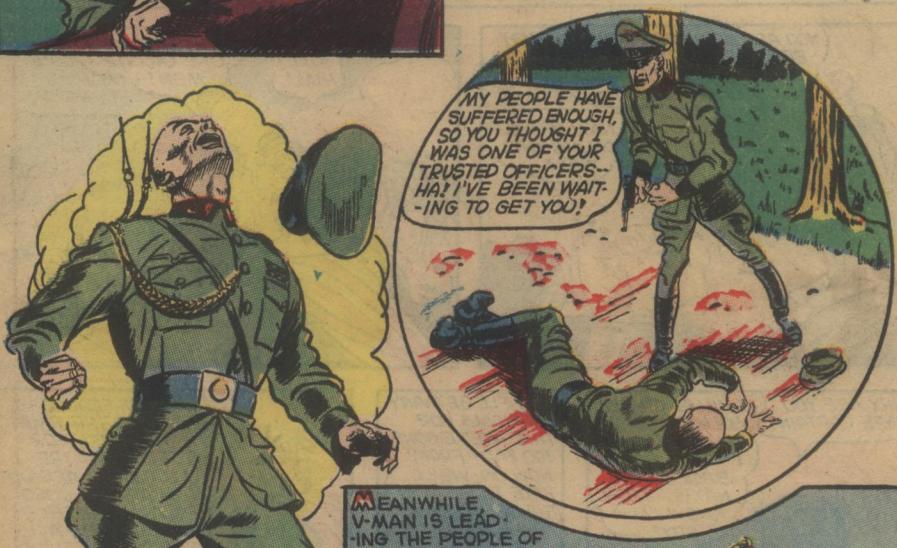
WE'VE GOT THEM LIKE RATS IN A TRAP-- PUSH THE PLUNGER!



WE MUST EVACUATE THE INHABITANTS TO UNOCCUPIED FRANCE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE--COME, WE MUST HURRY!

HA, HA, INSTEAD OF THE QUARRY, THE HUNTERS HAVE BEEN KILLED!



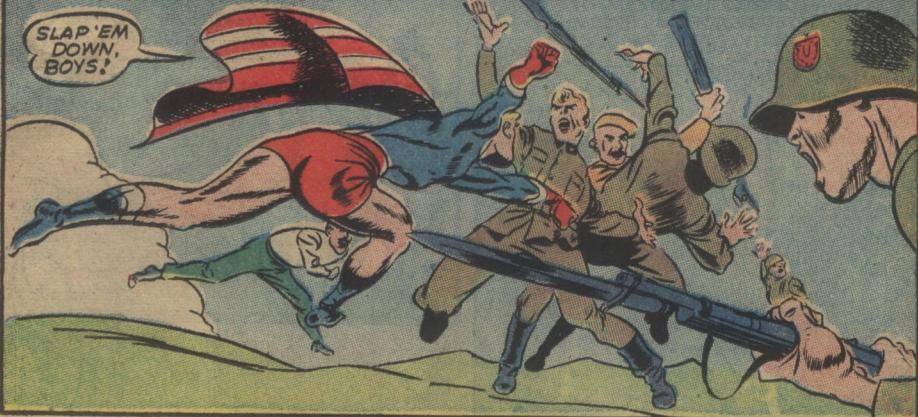


MEANWHILE,  
V-MAN IS LEADING THE PEOPLE OF THE DESERTED VILLAGE TOWARD UNOCCUPIED FRANCE!



V-MAN AND HIS MEN OVERPOWER THE GUARDS AT THE BORDER?

SLAP 'EM DOWN, BOYS!



(YOU ARE NOW FREE--YOU WILL NOT BE ENTIRELY SAFE HERE, BUT YOU HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF ESCAPING THAN--

A NAZI OFFICER, COMING THIS WAY!



NO--WAIT! HE'S ONE OF OUR MEN!



WHY ARE YOU HERE, CAPTAIN?

I KILLED COLONEL WOLHEIM SO YOU COULD GET AWAY, I CAN'T GO BACK TO THE NAZIS - THEY KNOW I'M A SPY!

THERE'LL BE MANY REPRISALS FOR THIS--WE'VE GONE TOO FAR--FROM NOW ON, WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT IN THE OPEN!



MEN OF FRANCE -- NOW IS THE TIME TO STRIKE FOR FREEDOM! THE BALKANS ARE UP IN ARMS -- JUGOSLAVIA, GREECE, THE SERBS -- ALL WHO DESIRE THEIR LIBERTY, TAKE UP ARMS AND FOLLOW ME!

VIVE LE V-MAN!



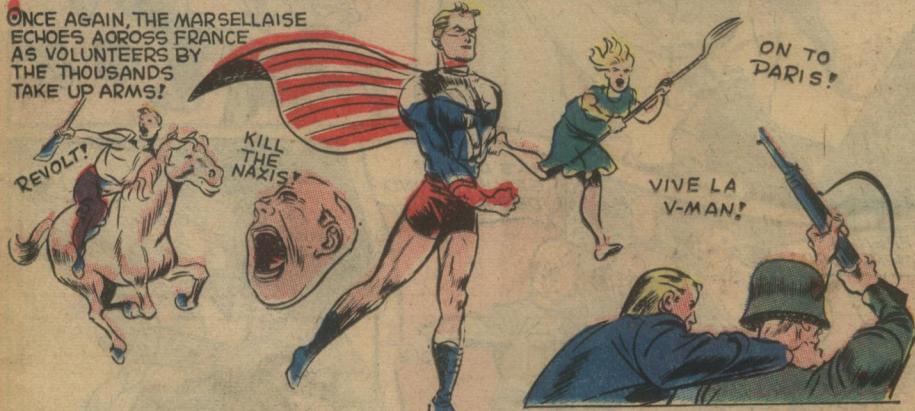
AS THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
CONTINUE ON INTO FREE FRANCE  
THE MEN STAY BEHIND WITH  
V-MAN!



RECKLESS COURIERS CARRY  
THE NEWS TO EVERY PROV-  
INCE OF FRANCE!



ONCE AGAIN, THE MARSELLAISE  
ECHOES ACROSS FRANCE  
AS VOLUNTEERS BY  
THE THOUSANDS  
TAKE UP ARMS!



THREE NIGHTS LATER, AT A SECRET  
RENDEZVOUS IN THE HILLS!

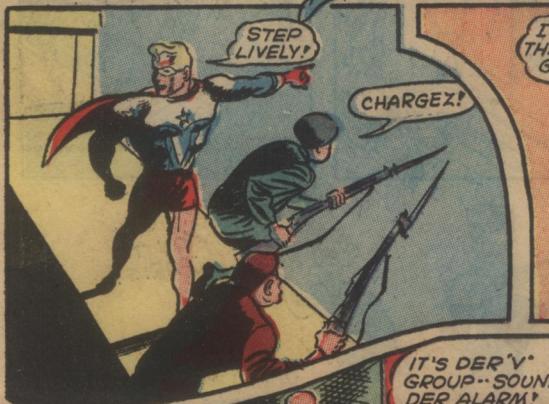
OUR FIRST OBJECTIVE WILL BE  
THE GERMAN GARRISON AT LA  
CHOTRE! MARCH ON FOR THE  
GLORY OF FRANCE!

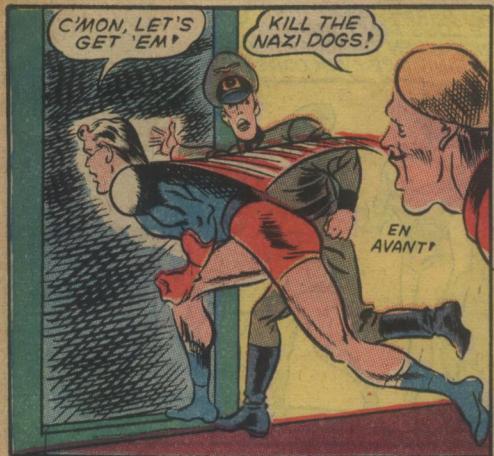


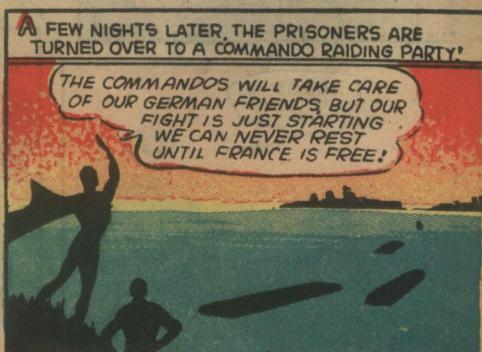
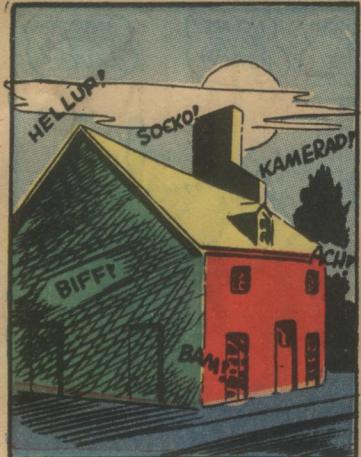
At HEADQUARTERS IN THE NAZI GARRISON!



THAT NIGHT, THE NAZI GARRISON IS SHROUDED IN DARKNESS--A LONE SENTRY WALKS HIS POST!



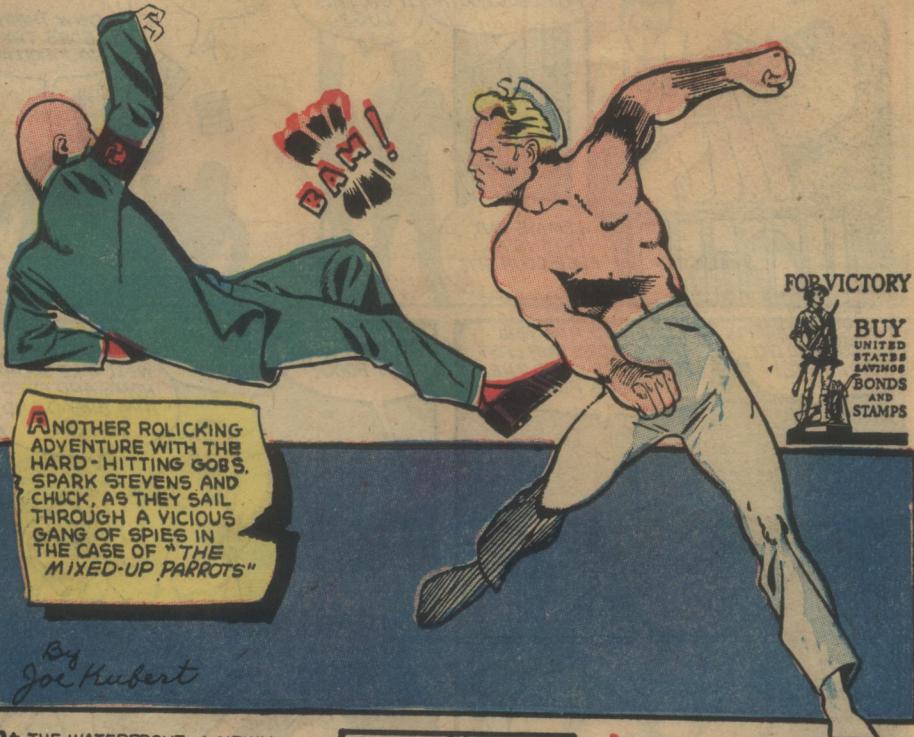




A FEW NIGHTS LATER, THE PRISONERS ARE TURNED OVER TO A COMMANDO RAIDING PARTY.

AND YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT V-MAN AND HIS V GROUP WILL CARRY ON UNTIL VICTORY IS SECURED FOR THE UNITED NATIONS. FOR ACTION AND SUPER THRILLS, DON'T MISS THE NEXT ISSUE OF BLUE BEETLE COMICS!

# SPARK STEVENS



FOR VICTORY



A  
NOTHER ROLICKING ADVENTURE WITH THE HARD-HITTING GOBS, SPARK STEVENS AND CHUCK, AS THEY SAIL THROUGH A VICIOUS GANG OF SPIES IN THE CASE OF "THE MIXED-UP PARROTS"

By  
Joe Hubert

At the waterfront, a newly arrived cargo ship is unloaded!

HERE'S ANOTHER ONE FOR THE SAME OUTFIT--THE SCHILLER PET SHOP!

SEEMS LIKE THERE'S ONE FOR 'EM OFF EVERY SHIP--MUST HAVE A PRETTY BIG MARKET FOR PARROTS!

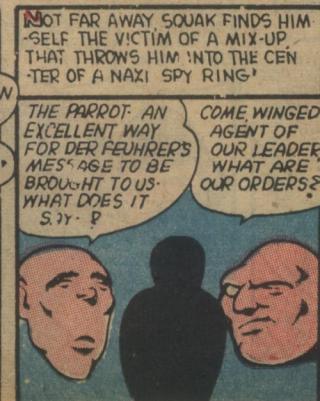
I'M FROM SCHILLER'S--YOU HAVE A PARROT FOR THEM?

YEAH, STEP IN THE OFFICE AND SIGN FOR IT!

A SHORT WHILE LATER AT SCHILLER'S PET SHOP--!

AH, HERE COMES YOUR BIRD NOW!

GOOT! --I VILL PAY FOR HIM NOW!



THE COMPANY'S NOT  
AS GOOD AS CHUCK  
AND STEVE, BUT  
THE FOOD'S  
BETTER!

ENOUGH TIME  
WASTED --  
COME, WHAT  
IS DER  
FEUHRER'S ORDERS?

THE NAZI AGENTS ARE  
QUICK TO USE BRUTAL  
MEANS, EVEN ON HELP.  
-LESS PARROTS!

HEIL  
HITLER!

HEIL HITLER!

SPEAK OR  
I'LL KILL  
YOU!

LOOKS BAD,  
I'VE GOT TO  
DO SOME-  
THING!

I'VE GOT 'EM  
ON THE RUN,  
HEIL HITLER!

HEIL  
HITLER!

MEANWHILE, SPARKS AND  
CHUCK RETURN TO THE  
SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT?

--AND WE'D LIKE THE  
OTHER GUY'S ADDRESS  
SO WE CAN GET SQUAK  
BACK!

THEY KNOW TOO MUCH

: HMM, STEP INTO THE  
NEXT ROOM--I HAVE  
THE RECORDS THERE!

MEANWHILE, IN THE ADJOINING ROOM--:

LOOK, SCHILLER'S  
SIGNAL LIGHT IS  
FLASHING!

THAT MEANS HE'S  
BRINGING SOMEONE  
FOR US TO GET RID OF!

CHUCK! WATCH  
OUT--IT'S A  
TRAP!

OOPS-- I CAN  
FEEL IT!





THE CRAFTY SCHILLER, HAVING RESCUED HIS MEN, PROCEEDS WITH THE MESSAGE-BEARING PARROT TO THE DEN OF SQUAK'S CAPTORS!

FOOLS YOU HAVE THE WRONG BIRD!

AH, HIMMEL, NO WONDER THIS STUPID THING HAD NOTHING TO SAY!

WHO'S STUPID?

UND NOW I PAY YOU OFF--OUT DER VINDOW!

AND ME WITHOUT A PARACHUTE! CRAWWK!

KERASH!

NO TIME TO BAIL OUT -- CRASH LAND--ING--OOPS!

STUNNED BY THE FALL, SQUAK STAGGERS ABOUT THE STREET!

AS USUAL, THE NAVY ARRIVES IN THE NICK OF TIME!

WISH THEY'D STOP MOVING THE STREET!

HEY, FELLAS, IT'S ME!

CHUCK, LOOK, IT'S SQUAK!

IT'S A PLOT--THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A MESSAGE!

SPIES? THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE!

THEY'RE PROBABLY UPSTAIRS, LET'S GO!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT! THIS WAY MEN-- CRAWK!

THIS IS GOING TO BE WORSE THAN WHAT THE JAPS GOT AT CORAL SEA!

UPSTAIRS, SCHILLER AND HIS TREACHEROUS BAND GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS, UNAWARE OF THE CATASTROPHE ABOUT TO STRIKE!

DER FEUHRER'S ORDERS FOR THE MONTH ARE--

AT LAST WE ARE GOING TO GET THE MESSAGE!



AND SOON THE SMOKE OF BATTLE  
CLEAR'S AWAY, LEAVING SCHILLER  
AND HIS GANG, A CRUMPLED HEAP!

LATER, AS SPARKS, CHUCK  
AND SQUAK RETURN TO  
THEIR SHIP--?

TOO BAD THE  
PARTY DIDN'T  
LAST, SPARKS!

THE F.B.I.'S GOT  
NICE QUARTERS  
FOR THESE  
MUGS!

HEY, FELLAS A PRESENT  
FROM THE COMMANDER  
FOR ROUNDING UP  
THE SPIES!

OPEN IT  
SPARK!

NOTHING BUT  
PARROT FOOD!

THAT TAKES  
CARE OF  
SQUAK, BUT  
WHAT ABOUT  
US?

THERE'S ALWAYS  
BREAD AND  
WATER, CRAWK!



THE

# BLUE BEETLE

CASE #

b1

PHIL STURM  
and  
OLIVER ASHFORD!

CASE # X-C

FROM THE PRIVATE FILES OF PATROLMAN GARRET COMES THE FANTASTIC TALE OF A HIDEOUS VAMPIRE! MEN DISAPPEARED WHEN THE HORRIBLE CREATURE STALKED THROUGH THE NIGHT, BUT THE "BLUE BEETLE" AND "SPARKY" TRACKED DOWN THE FIEND TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF "THE BLOODLESS BODIES"

SERIE DARKNESS ENVELOPS THE CITY STREET. A LONE FIGURE WALKS SILENTLY-- OVERHEAD, AN OMINOUS SHADOW FOLLOWS--



ONCE AGAIN, THE NIGHT IS SILENT EXCEPT FOR THE FLAPPING OF THE VAMPIRE'S WINGS AS IT FIES OFF WITH ITS UNCONSCIOUS VICTIM!



NEXT NIGHT, A GROUP OF MOVIE-GOERS LEAVE THE LOCAL THEATRE?

HORACE

BARLOFF... VAMPIRE'S VEN-

VAMPIRE'S.. BAH, I GUESS YOU JUST DON'T CARE NONSENSE! FOR THE MYSTERIES OF LIFE!



SUDDENLY

JOHN! LOOK- IT'S A VAMPIRE!

GOOD HEAVENS, IT IS!.. QUICK, RUN INTO THAT BUILDING-- WE'LL--

RUN MARY, SAVE YOUR-SELF! YI!!! LET ME GO!

HELP! HELP! JOHN--HELP, POLICE!

SEVERAL NIGHTS LATER, AS THE VAMPIRE MENACE CONTINUES, PATROLMAN DAN GARRET AND MIKE MANNIGAN POUND THEIR BEAT ACCCOMPANIED BY THEIR YOUNG ENGLISH FRIEND, SPARKINGTON!

BRR--VAMPIRES, CREATURES OF THE DEVIL.. I SURE WOULD LIKE TO GET A MUG LIKE THAT AT THE END OF MY GUN!

YEAH, I KNOW, MIKE!

HEY, FELLAS!

I SAY, LOOK AT THAT THING FLOATING IN THE WATER. IT LOOKS LIKE

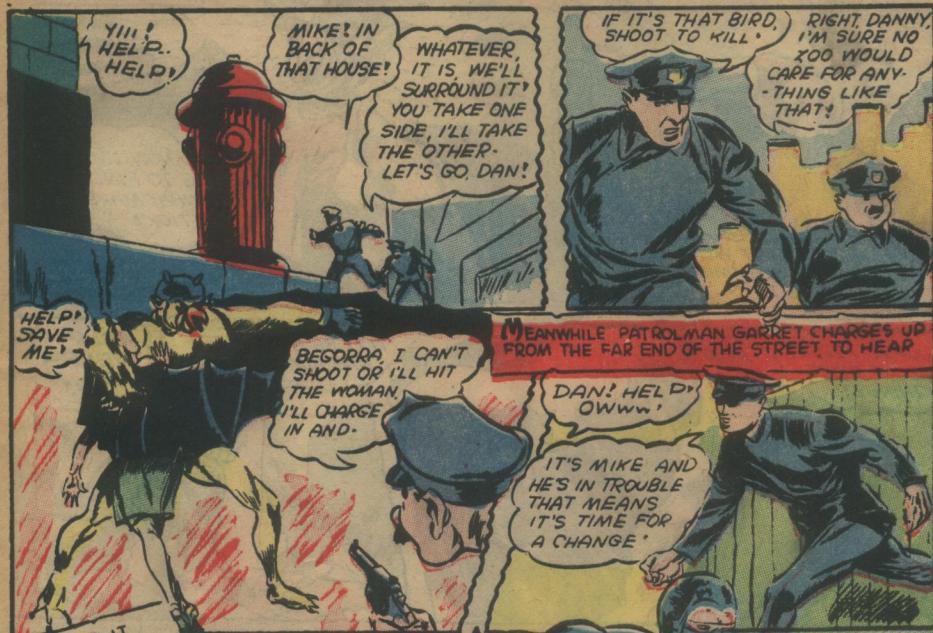
IT'S A BODY!

WHY, IT'S DRY, SHRIVELED.

BLOODLESS, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!

GLORY BE, IT IS. COME ALONG, DANNY, WE'LL GIVE A LOOK!

BLAST ME, IF IT ISN'T LIKE THE TALES OF THE OLD VAMPIRES THRIVING ON HUMAN BLOOD. HMM-- WONDER WHAT NEXT?







UNAWARE OF THE INTENSIVE SEARCH MADE FOR HIM, THE BLUE BEETLE CONTINUES TO PURSUE THE DEADLY VAMPIRE!

THERE HE IS!  
I'VE CLIPPED  
HIS WINGS SO  
HE CAN'T FLY  
NOW I'LL CLIP  
HIS CLAWS!

BUT AS THE BEETLE CLOSES IN TO  
MAKE THE KILL--

HEY MOIPH! LOOK,  
THE BLUE  
BEETLE!

PLAYED RIGHT  
INTO OUR HANDS.  
C'MON, WE'LL  
GIVE HIM A  
TASTE OF  
LEAD!



OUCH!  
MY ARM!

BANG!  
BANG

YA' NIPPED  
HIM, MOIPH!  
C'MON, WE'LL  
NAB HIM!

DON'T STAND THERE,  
YOU'RE LETTING THE  
VAMPIRE ESCAPE!

YOU'RE NOT TALKING  
YOUR WAY OUT OF  
THIS--WE'RE GONNA  
GIVE A LOOK UNDER  
THAT MASK!



BUT BEFORE THE PATROLMEN CAN REACH THE BEETLE'S  
MASK TO REMOVE IT--

SPARKY!  
AND IN THE  
NICK OF  
TIME!

QUICK! IN HERE,  
BEETLE--WE'LL GIVE  
'EM THE SLIP!

NICE NIGHT  
FOR A  
BLACKOUT?



THERE THEY GO--GOOD WE'RE RID OF THEM!  
NOW WE'RE GOING TO CATCH UP WITH THE  
FLYING VAMPIRE!

HIS FLYING DAYS ARE OVER.  
LAST TIME I SMASHED THE  
HELICOPTER ON THE BACK OF  
HIM, THIS TIME, I'LL SMASH  
HIM!

SO THAT'S HOW HE FLEW PROPELLED  
THROUGH THE AIR BY A MACHINE--  
BUT, WHAT'S NEXT, BEETLE?

THE BLOODLESS BODIES  
WERE WASHED INTO THE  
RIVER FROM SOME SEWER!  
IT'S UP TO US TO FIND OUT  
WHERE THEY COME FROM!



WHILE THE BLUE BEETLE AND SPARKY RACE TO THE RIVER FRONT, PATROLMAN MANNIGAN CONDUCTS A LONE SEARCH!



GLORY BE - ANOTHER ONE! THAT MEANS THE VAMPIRE'S HIDEOUT IS HERE -- AND THIS PIPE'LL LEAD ME TO IT!

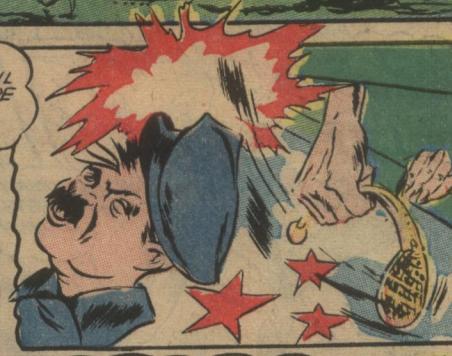
(Continued on next page)



THE EFFECT OF THE BLOW WEARS OFF AND MANNIGAN FINDS HIMSELF A PRISONER!

DOCTOR GRIME! YOU WERE REPORTED DEAD SIX WEEKS AFTER YOU WERE EXPELLED FROM THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE!

PART OF MY PLAN! THEY REFUSED ME BLOOD TO CONDUCT MY EXPERIMENTS, SO I PLAYED DEAD TO WORK THIS VAMPIRE SCHEME -- YOU ARE THE LAST VICTIM FOR NOW I HAVE ENOUGH BLOOD --



-- TO BRING BACK TO LIFE THIS REPLICA OF ANCIENT EGYPT -- I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT BLOOD WOULD RESTORE IT TO LIFE AND NOW I'M READY TO PROVE IT!



GLORY, YOU'RE AS CRAZY AS THE AUTHORITIES CLAIMED YOU WERE!



MEANWHILE, THE  
BLUE BEETLE AND  
SPARKY REACH  
THE SEWER MAIN  
IN THEIR SEARCH  
FOR THE VAMPIRE!

KEEP LOOKING,  
SPARKY, WE'RE  
BOUND TO FIND  
SOME CLUE!

IT'S MIKE'S SHIELD--  
THE VAMPIRE'S GOT HIM--  
QUICK, INSIDE THE  
PIPE!



SPARKY, IT'S  
MIKE--AND  
HE'S IN  
TROUBLE!

OVER THERE  
BEETLE--THERE'S  
A LADDER!

HELP!

C'MON, SPARKY,  
THERE'S THE GUY  
WE WANT!

ULP--I'M DOUBLY  
COOKED--THE  
BEETLE'S HERE!

BAH! I'LL MAKE  
SHORT WORK  
OF THE TWO  
OF THEM!

DROP  
THAT  
NEEDLE!

DUMMY MEETS  
MUMMY!

LATER,  
ON THE  
BEAT!

FREEING ME WON'T  
SAVE YOU BEETLE.  
I'M GONNA TURN YOU  
IN FOR KIDNAPPING  
ME BUDDY.  
DAN!

I'LL OOPSS--THE  
LITTLE DEVIL  
TRIPPED ME!

THE BEETLE CONKED  
ME AND DRAGGED  
ME INTO THE HOUSE  
WHEN I CAME TO  
YOU WERE GONE!

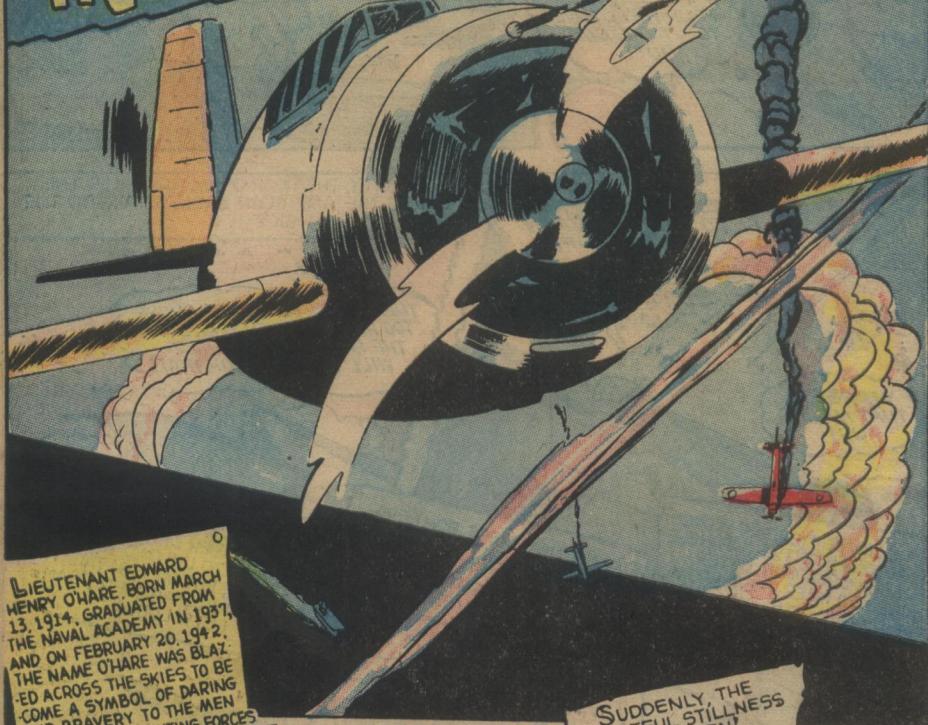
CAPTURIN' THE  
VAMPIRE WAS A  
COVER UP FOR HIS  
CRIMES AND SHORE  
AS ME NAME IS  
MIKE I'LL PUT HIM  
AND HIS BRAT BE  
HIND BARS!



NICE FALL,  
MIKE, YOU'D BETTER  
TURN IN YOUR OTHER  
PRISONER C'MON,  
SPARKY!



# LIEUTENANT EDWARD HENRY O'HARE



LIEUTENANT EDWARD HENRY O'HARE, BORN MARCH 13, 1914, GRADUATED FROM THE NAVAL ACADEMY IN 1937, AND ON FEBRUARY 20, 1942, THE NAME O'HARE WAS BLAZED ACROSS THE SKIES TO BECOME A SYMBOL OF DARING AND BRAVERY TO THE MEN OF AMERICA'S FIGHTING FORCES. FOR ON THAT DAY, LIEUT. O'HARE ESTABLISHED THE GREATEST AMERICAN NAVAL FLYING RECORD -- WRITTEN IN THE ACRID SMOKE OF SIX JAPANESE PLANES SENT CRASHING TO A WATERY GRAVE -- WE TURN BACK THE PAGES OF TIME TO THAT DAY . . . !

FEBRUARY 16<sup>th</sup> SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC, ABOARD AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER'



SUDDENLY, THE PEACEFUL STILLNESS IS BROKEN!



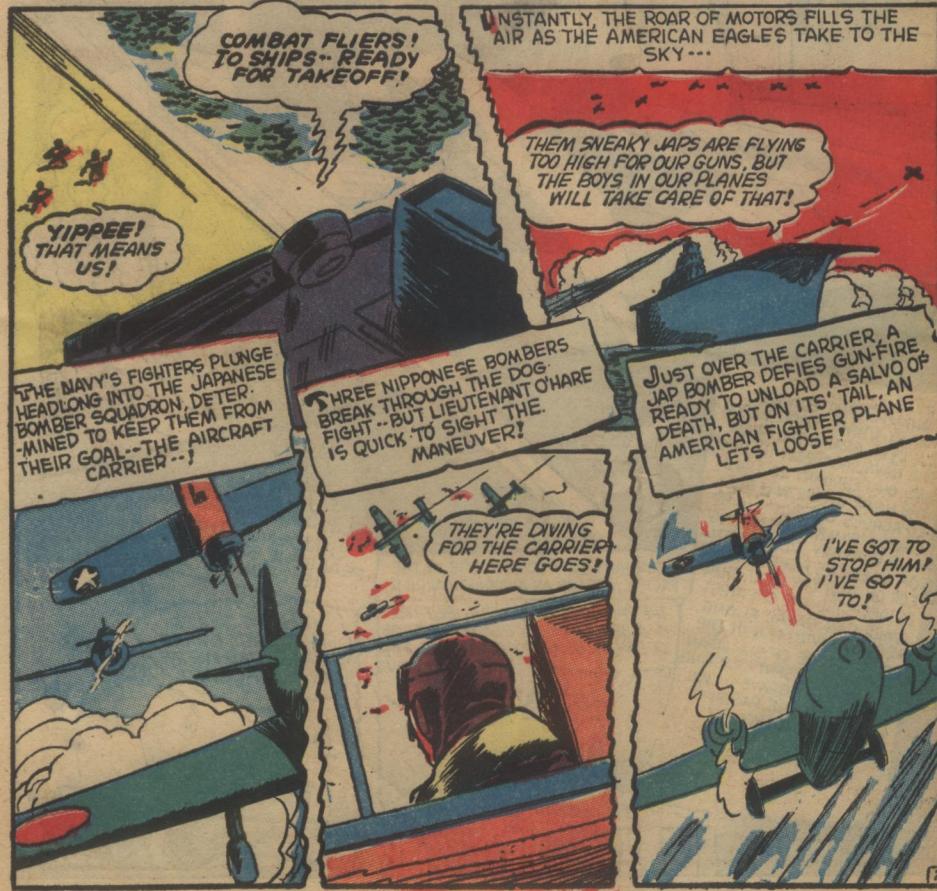
# BANG

BULL'S EYE--THAT'S ONE SETTING SUN THAT'S SET FOR GOOD, EH O'HARE?

WHAM! THEY GOT ANOTHER ONE!

LOOKS LIKE ALL THE FLIERS ABOARD THIS CARRIER BETTER TAKE UP KNITTING FOR ALL THE FIGHTING THEY'RE GOING TO DO!

IF THE BOYS KEED IT UP WELL HAVE TO SIT THIS ONE OUT!



RISKING A.A. FIRE FROM HIS OWN CARRIER, LIEUTENANT O'HARE OPENS UP WITH A DEADLY BARRAGE--!

THE GIANT AIR BASE OF THE SEA SWERVES SHARPLY AND NARROWLY MISSES BEING HIT!

BULL'S EYE -- HE'S THROUGH, BUT HE'S GOING TO FALL ON THE CARRIER!

THANKS TO O'HARE AND THE SKIPPER WE'RE STILL IN ONE PIECE!

BUT THE BATTLE IS BY NO MEANS OVER. ANOTHER JAP BOMBER STRIKES!

AS O'HARE ZOOMS IN TO MAKE THE KILL, A JAP GUNNER DRAWS A BEAD ON HIM--!

YOU MISSED JAPPY, AND THAT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE--I'M GOING TO...

ME MISS SHIP, BUT NOW GET PLANE INSTEAD!

THE GUNNER PRESSES THE TRIGGER, BUT THE QUICK THINKING O'HARE PULLS A SENSATIONAL FEAT AS HE LEAP FROGS HIS PLANE OUT OF THE RANGE OF FIRE!

SWIFTLY, THE AMERICAN EAGLE RETALIATES WITH DEADLY ACCURACY!

YIPPEE!!

HIM FLY LIKE A DEVIL--CAN'T BE HIT!

THAT'S FOR PEARL HARBOR!

AAAGHHH...

WITH TWO SHIPS TO HIS CREDIT, LIEUTENANT O'HARE NOSES UPWARD TO REJOIN HIS COMARADES LOCKED IN A DOG-FIGHT!

HE JUST GOT ANOTHER' O'HARE SURE IS GOING GREAT GUNS TO-DAY! LOOKS LIKE THE JAPS PICKED A BAD DAY TO ATTACK!

TWO LEFT THAT OUGHT TO BE EASY, I'LL...

TOO BAD-GOTTA LET 'EM GO-NO MORE GAS!

THE DEFEATED JAPS FLEE IN TERROR, AND THE AMERICAN EAGLES RETURN TO THEIR CARRIER!

THAT'S QUICK WORK OF THE SAP--JAP!

HOW MANY NOTCHES IN YOUR BELT THIS TIME, LIEUTENANT?

THREE, BUT I FEEL I CAN DO BETTER!

THE BREATHING SPELL IS SHORT-LIVED AS THE MEN OF THE RISING SUN RETURN TO AVENGE A BITTER DEFEAT!

THE SQUADRON RETURNING-- FIGHTER PLANES READY FOR THE TAKE-OFF!

THAT MEANS ME, AND I'M RARIN' TO GO!

BUT ONLY TWO AMERICAN SHIPS COMPLETE THE TAKE-OFF!

IN THE AIR, THE TWO EAGLES MAKE LIGHT OF THE GRIM SITUATION!

LOOK! ONE OF THE PLANES IS DISABLED--THE OTHERS CAN'T TAKE OFF THE RUNAWAY!

HEY O'HARE, LOOKS LIKE LUCK'S WITH US--WE'RE GOING TO DO IT BY OURSELVES!

WHAT! US TWO AGAINST NINE JAPS--EASY, WE'LL HOLD THEM OFF UNTIL THE GANG GETS HERE!

IN A FEW SECONDS, TWO JAP BOMBERS ARE SENT TO A WATERY GRAVE--!

BUT LIEUTENANT O'HARE'S CO-FIGHTER IS IN TROUBLE!



GAD!--IT  
WOULD HAPPEN  
NOW!

CLICK CLICK

MY GUN'S JAMMED,  
O'HARE-- IT'S UP TO  
YOU TO KEEP THEM  
FROM THE CARRIER!

LIKE A STREAK OF LIGHTNING, O'HARE CLOSES  
THE GAP BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE ENEMY!

O.K. PAL--  
HERE GOES  
EVERYTHING!

BURNING LEAD TEARS THROUGH  
THE JAP BOMBER!

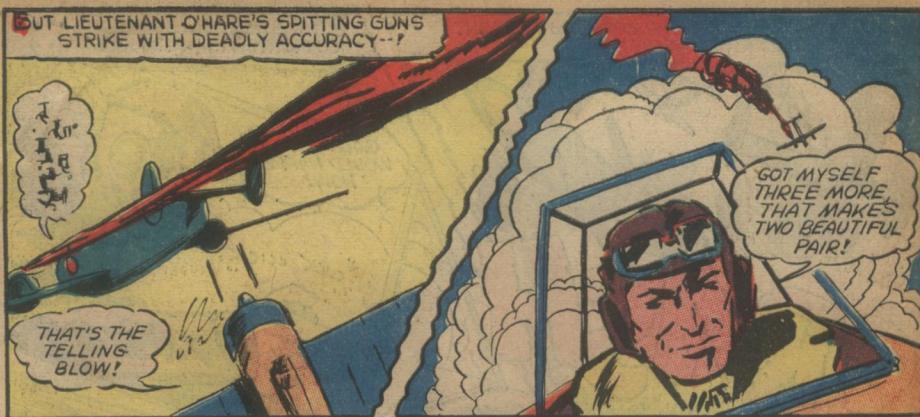
AND NOW TO COOL  
OFF THE OTHER  
HOT MIKADO!

O'HARE BANKS AND DIVES  
HIS PLANE AND INSTANTLY  
BOTH PLANES ARE LOCKED  
IN MORTAL COMBAT!

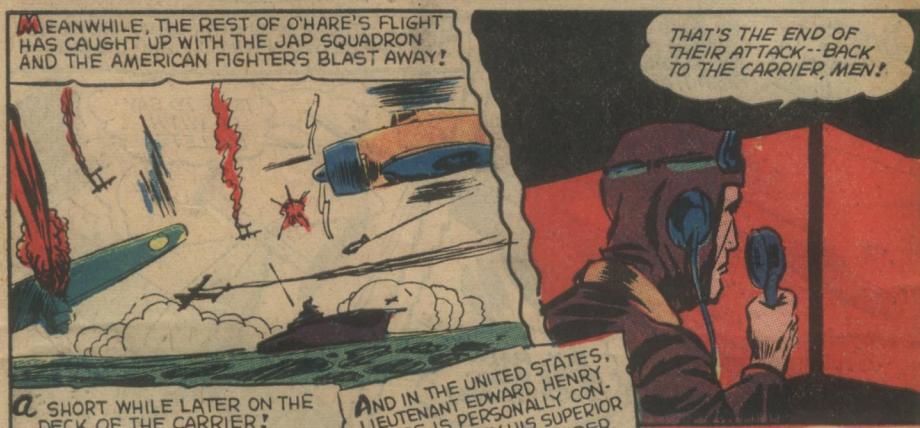
MUST STOP AMERICAN  
DEVIL, OR ALL IS  
LOST--?



BUT LIEUTENANT O'HARE'S SPITFIRE IS STRIKE WITH DEADLY ACCURACY--!



MEANWHILE, THE REST OF O'HARE'S FLIGHT HAS CAUGHT UP WITH THE JAP SQUADRON AND THE AMERICAN FIGHTERS BLAST AWAY!



a SHORT WHILE LATER ON THE DECK OF THE CARRIER!

CONGRATULATIONS, O'HARE, THAT WAS A RECORD NUMBER OF PLANES YOU SHOT DOWN!

AND IN THE UNITED STATES, LIEUTENANT EDWARD HENRY O'HARE IS PERSONALLY CONGRATULATED BY HIS SUPERIOR OFFICER, THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE U.S. ARMY AND NAVY!

--OF HONOR FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY!

THANK YOU, SIR!

LIEUTENANT EDWARD HENRY O'HARE--THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA SALUTE YOU AS THE SYMBOL OF COURAGE AND DARING IN THE FIGHTING FORCES OF OUR NATION!



--SO THAT MEN LIKE YOU WILL "KEEP 'EM FLYIN'", MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WILL KEEP ON BUYING WAR STAMPS AND BONDS!

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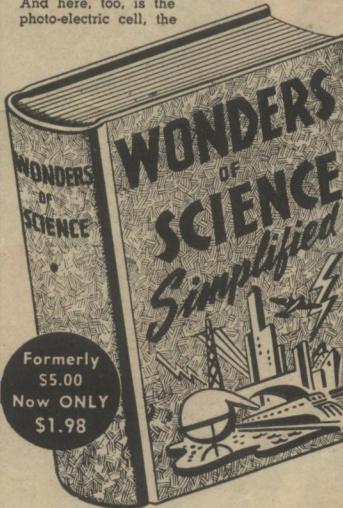
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